

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An apparatus for loading material into a hauling vehicle, said hauling vehicle including a storage area for holding said material, comprising:

5 a receiving member for receiving material thereon and transferring said material toward said storage area, said receiving member having a vehicle end positioned toward said vehicle and a loading end positioned away from said vehicle, said receiving member being movable between a deployed position extending away from said vehicle and positioned for the placement of material on said loading end and a transfer position in which said receiving member is positioned to transfer material placed on the loading end toward said hauling vehicle;

10 a connector for rotatably connecting said vehicle end of said receiving member to said vehicle proximate said storage area; and

15 operation means for moving said receiving member between said deployed position and said transfer position.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said loading end includes a base member, the base member positioned while the receiving member is in deployed position at a lower elevation above the ground surface than the storage area of said hauling vehicle, the base member being proximate the ground surface where said material is located for loading, the base member also being connected to said vehicle end, the vehicle end forming an angle in the range of about 120 degrees to about 160 degrees with the base member.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the angle formed by said base member and said vehicle end is in the range of about 145 degrees to about 180 degrees.

4. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the angle formed by said base member and said vehicle end is in the range of about 90 degrees to about 145 degrees.

5. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein, following the loading of material on said base member in the deployed position, said operation means is activated to lift said base member and the material thereon into said transfer position, wherein the base member is

elevated to cause the material on said base member to slide with the force of gravity down the base member and thenceforth down the vehicle end and into said storage area.

6. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said receiving member includes a guide member located at said vehicle end positioned proximate said storage area and oriented to direct
5 material from said vehicle end into said storage area, when said receiving member is positioned in the transfer position.

7. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said base member includes a frame and canvas material disposed over said frame.

8. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said base member includes a flat metal sheet,
10 formed in the shape of a tray, for receipt of said material thereon.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said receiving member has opposite sides extending above and away from said vehicle end, and wherein said receiving member has side walls attached to extend upwardly from said receiving member proximate said opposite sides.

10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said operation means includes a reel attached to
15 said hauling vehicle and a cable attached to said receiving member, said reel being configured to be operable to wind and unwind said cable to move said receiving member between said deployed position and said transfer position.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said operation means includes a worm gear mechanism.

20 12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said operation means includes a hydraulic ram mechanism connected to a hydraulic system of the hauling vehicle.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said connector includes a hinge attached to said vehicle end of said receiving member, and to a rear support member of said hauling vehicle.

25 14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said connector includes a pivot mechanism.